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# MONTANA

guide to ...  
Fishing  
Hunting  
Sightseeing







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# **MONTANA HUNTING-FISHING GUIDE 1971 - 1972**

**Montana Fish & Game Department  
Helena, Montana 59601**



Photo by Gerry Atwell

## **MONTANA'S WILDLIFE**

Among the Treasure State's greatest treasures are its wealth of wildlife and scenic beauty. From the eastern prairies and badlands to the rugged mountains of western Montana and in the crystal waters pouring out of the Rocky Mountains, this wealth is intended for the enjoyment of all.





INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS BOOKLET MAY BE CHANGED BY LEGISLATION OR BY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION ACTION. Check annual regulations for the most current information.

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## EVERYTHING FOR THE SPORTSMAN

Whether you thrill to the whirr of a ruffed grouse breaking from a willow clump, the bugling of a bull elk, or a tussle with a tackle-busting trout, Montana has something to offer. With a variety of fish and game that is tops, the sportsman can find almost anything that his heart desires.

There is more than wildlife alone to attract the outdoorsman to Montana. Scenery is unequalled for breathtaking beauty, streams are clear and pure, and from the vast prairies of eastern Montana to the rugged peaks of the western section, one can enjoy lots of elbow room.

This state has an area of 147,138 square miles. The far eastern portion is prairie and badlands and some rolling pine hills. Here are found antelope, deer, sage grouse, sharptailed grouse, pheasants and turkeys, and warm water fishes. This is also an area of fossil deposits, and the picturesque badlands form an interesting background for the hunter, fisherman, and photographer.

In western Montana, rugged, snow-capped peaks, rolling hills and broad valleys are the homes of elk, moose, white-tailed and mule deer, mountain goats and sheep, black and grizzly bear, rainbow and brown trout, and other cold-water fishes.

Now let's consider where you can go to find that special kind of hunting or fishing. But remember there are many factors that will influence your trip. You may or may not be lucky, but getting a limit of fish or game isn't the really important thing. It's getting out that counts—breathing that fresh Montana air and smelling coffee and bacon on the crisp morning breeze—man, that's living!

### IN MONTANA YOU WILL SEE

#### **Big Game . . .**

Moose, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, antelope, mountain lions, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, grizzly and black bear.

#### **Game Birds . . .**

Sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, Franklin's grouse, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasants, Hungarian partridge, wild turkey, and an occasional ptarmigan and chukar partridge.

#### **Game Fish . . .**

Cutthroat, rainbow trout, golden trout, Dolly Varden (bull trout), brown trout, brook, mackinaw (lake trout), grayling, kokanee (sockeye salmon), coho (silver salmon), whitefish, sandpike (sauger), walleye pike, northern pike, bass, paddlefish, sturgeon (Acipenser).

Other fish that are popular with many Montana fishermen are yellow perch, bluegills, catfish, and ling.

#### **Fur-Bearing Animals . . .**

Beaver, mink, otter and muskrats may be trapped with proper licenses and at certain times of the year. In addition, fisher are found in the state but are protected, while marten are trapped during years of abundance.

#### **Other Animals . . .**

Coyote, wolverine, bobcat, lynx, weasel, badger, skunk, raccoon, red fox, porcupine, and a variety of smaller animals.





Photo by Eldon Smith

**SUMMARY OF TYPES OF LICENSES AND FEES**

**Resident Hunting and Fishing Licenses . . . RESIDENCY.** In order to apply for a resident Montana hunting or fishing license, one must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Montana for a period of six months immediately prior to making application. If you are in doubt as to whether or not you are a resident of Montana, here are two important considerations: 1, are you registered to vote in Montana? 2, do you pay Montana state taxes as a Montana resident? If you're still in doubt, contact the Montana Fish and Game Department.

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LICENSE** (required before any other fish or game license may be purchased.) You may apply for other licenses at the same time that you apply for a conservation license.  
Residents 12 and older..... \$ .25

**RESIDENT FISHING**

Resident Fishing License (stamp) .....	4.00
Resident Sportsman's License (includes Wildlife Conservation License) .....	20.25
Residents 65 or older need only a Pioneer License to fish.....	.15



## RESIDENT HUNTING

Resident Bird (stamp).....	\$ 2.00
Resident Black Bear .....	5.00
Deer A .....	3.00
Deer B .....	5.00
Elk .....	3.00
Sportsman's License (includes Wildlife Conservation License)....	20.25
Resident Sportsman's License authorizes fishing and hunting for birds, 1 deer, 1 elk, 1 black bear.	
Bow and Arrow (Pre-Gun Season).....	3.00
Must hold regular hunting license in addition to Bow & Arrow Stamp for Pre-Gun Seasons. Bow & Arrow stamps not required during regular seasons.	
Residents 65 or older may hunt upland game birds, (except turkeys) on the "Pioneer License".....	.15

### Special License

Antelope .....	\$ 3.00
Moose .....	25.00
Goat .....	15.00
Sheep .....	25.00
Grizzly Bear .....	\$5.00/25.00
Turkey (in addition to regular bird).....	2.00
Special licenses shall be issued by drawing for areas which have an established quota.	

A five dollar license is required to hunt grizzly bear, and persons  
who shoot a grizzly must pay an additional \$25.00 trophy fee.

### Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Licenses . . .

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LICENSE** (required before any other fish or  
game license may be purchased.) You may apply for other licenses  
at the same time you apply for a Conservation License.

Nonresident .....	\$ 1.00
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## NONRESIDENT FISHING

Nonresident Season Fishing License (stamp).....	\$ 15.00
Nonresident Temporary Fishing License (6-day, stamp).....	5.00
Nonresident Temporary Fishing License (1-day, stamp).....	1.00
Nonresident Fish, Bird, and Big Game License (includes Wildlife Conservation License).....	151.00

## NONRESIDENT HUNTING

Nonresident Combination Game, Bird, Fish and Conservation License.....	\$151.00
(Includes 1 elk, 2 deer, game birds, fishing and author- izes holder to enter drawings for special licenses with additional fee.)	
Nonresident Game Bird License.....	25.00
Black Bear (and color phases).....	35.00
(The \$35.00 bear license for spring seasons only)	
Special Deer and Antelope.....	\$ 35.00



Black Bear Season—(\$151.00 license prerequisite)	\$ 35.00
Grizzly Bear—(Must first hold \$151.00 license)	\$ 35.00

Persons who take a grizzly bear must purchase a \$25.00 grizzly bear trophy license within 10 days after date of kill.

Bow and Arrow (Pre-Gun Season)	\$ 3.00
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Must hold regular hunting license in addition to Bow & Arrow Stamp for Pre-Gun Seasons. Bow & Arrow Stamps not required during regular seasons.  
 There is a quota on the number of \$35.00 deer and antelope licenses to be issued.

**Nonresident Special License (Must first hold \$151.00 Combination License)**

Antelope	\$ 10.00
Moose	50.00
Goat	30.00
Sheep	50.00

Special licenses shall be issued by drawing for areas which have an established quota of licenses to be issued.





## LICENSE EXCEPTIONS

**Children** under 15 years of age are not required to have a license to fish. Check current regulations carefully for limitations. However, **they must have a license to hunt game birds and animals.**

Resident children 12 through 14 years of age may purchase bird, deer and elk licenses at one-half the regular fee.

**Resident citizens of Montana 65 years or older** need only have a 15¢ "Pioneer License" to fish or hunt game birds (excepting turkeys). They must have a Conservation license before purchasing big game licenses, bow and arrow licenses, or turkey licenses.

**Patients of V.A. Hospitals** may obtain a 15¢ fishing license from heads of respective hospitals.

**Residents of Montana State institutions**, with the exception of inmates at the state penitentiary, are authorized to fish when in possession of a free permit signed by the heads of respective institutions.

**No game hunting license shall be issued to** children under 12, nor to any resident under the age of 18 years unless he has a certificate of competency issued by the Montana Fish and Game Department. This certificate is not required of nonresidents.

**Military personnel** who are assigned to duty in Montana and their immediate families may apply for resident licenses after a period of 30 days within Montana, upon presentation of assignment orders from the proper Unit Commander.

**Job Corps**—Enrollees of Job Corps camps located in Montana may purchase resident fishing licenses after they have been stationed in Montana for a period of 30 consecutive days, as long as they remain enrollees in a Montana camp.

**Aliens** must purchase nonresident licenses.

**No license is required to fish** in either Yellowstone or Glacier National Park. Hunting is not allowed in National Parks.

National Forests, Wilderness, and Primitive Areas are open to hunting and fishing under Montana Fish and Game Commission regulations, seasons and bag limits.

**Please refer** to the current year's hunting and fishing regulations for the bag limits, seasons, and other information.

**Hunting and fishing licenses may be purchased** at nearly every town in the state. They are usually on sale at sporting goods or other stores. They may also be purchased directly from the Montana Fish and Game Department in Helena, or from Fish and Game District Headquarters, either by mail or in person.

**Nonresident License, \$151.00.** This license permits the holder to take two deer, 1 elk, and to fish or hunt game birds (excepting turkeys). This



license also permits the nonresident to apply for special licenses on antelope, moose, mountain sheep, mountain goats and turkeys by including required fees.

All hunting areas are not open to taking deer on the B tag. In some hunting districts, special permits are required for the taking of cow or calf elk. Current hunting regulations will show these details.

**Montana's general big game hunting season opens** around mid-October. The season lasts 30 or more days. In addition, some seasons open as early as mid-September and last until later November in most areas.

**Regulations and Maps**—Hunting and fishing regulations and maps showing open areas, seasons, dates, closures and other pertinent information are available free of charge. These may be obtained by writing the Montana Fish and Game Department, Helena, Montana, 59601.



**Quizzical, chin-whiskered mountain goats appear from a distance to be white fluffs of cotton. They find the most rugged, precipitous terrain to their liking.**

Photo by Danny Onn.



## SPECIAL LICENSES

Licenses for all moose, and antelope, mountain sheep and mountain goats in most areas are allocated through machine drawings. Holders of moose, mountain sheep, or grizzly bear licenses may not obtain another such license for a succeeding 7-year period if the license holder is successful in bagging an animal. In case the hunter is unable to hunt or does not shoot an animal on his special license, he is not bound by the 7-year waiting period provided he sends his prior, unused license with his current application.

NO MORE THAN 10% OF THE TOTAL SHEEP, MOOSE, AND GOAT LICENSES ALLOWED IN RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS MAY BE ISSUED TO NONRESIDENT APPLICANTS DURING ANY SINGLE LICENSE YEAR. IF THE QUOTA FOR A DISTRICT IS LESS THAN 10, THEN NO NON-RESIDENT LICENSES WILL BE ISSUED THERE.

The thirty-five dollar licenses for deer are issued to nonresidents on a quota or allocated basis for some hunting areas. Only one \$35 deer license may be issued to an individual during a license year and only one deer is allowed on each license.

There is no quota on the number of \$35.00 black bear licenses to be issued, but only one license may be issued to an individual during a license year, and only one black bear (or color phase) may be taken on each license. These special seasons will generally run from mid-March to June 15.

Thirty-five dollar antelope licenses may be allocated for specified hunting areas. These special antelope licenses are issued only if all licenses have not been taken during the drawing from resident and non-resident Class B-2 license holders. Thirty-five dollar antelope licenses must be obtained from the Helena office unless otherwise specified in hunting regulations. Applications for \$35 antelope licenses must be submitted no later than the deadline date which appears on the hunting maps. Only one \$35 antelope license may be issued to an individual during a license year and only one antelope is allowed on each license.

Application blanks will be mailed with regulations describing areas, quotas of licenses to be issued, seasons, and other pertinent information.

### **Bow and Arrow Hunting (Special Season) . . .**

Bow and Arrow Stamp (Special Season).....\$3.00  
(The above fee is in addition to the amounts charged for the regular game license.)

The Montana Fish and Game Commission is authorized to designate an archer's deer, elk, and antelope season which is opened prior to the opening of the general firearm big game season in specified areas of the state.

Regulations governing this type of hunting are available in July.

During the archery season, the use of firearms to aid or assist any person in the hunting or killing of any game animal or bird is strictly prohibited.



Only a long bow and arrow may be used during the special archery seasons. Crossbows and other mechanical bows are prohibited.

Archers may use the bow and arrow without the special archery stamp for hunting during any regular open season on big game animals if they possess a valid big game license.

**No license is required to hunt** bobcat, lynx, wolves, coyotes, weasels, skunks, racoons, red foxes, woodchucks, rabbits, hares, badgers, porcupines, prairie dogs, or ground squirrels (gophers). These animals may be hunted by any one at any time of year. There are no restrictions on numbers that may be taken. There is no bounty on any animal in Montana. Nonresidents may not buy licenses to trap furbearers in Montana.

### **Upland Game Birds . . .**

Montana has a variety of upland game birds including sage grouse, Sharp-tailed grouse, ring-necked pheasants, chukar and Hungarian partridges, turkeys, blue grouse, Franklin's grouse (fool hen) and ruffed grouse.

**Seasons and bag limits** on sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, blue grouse, Franklin's grouse and ruffed grouse are usually established by August. Regulations vary from year to year depending upon conditions in the field. Seasons for mountain and prairie grouse usually run from mid-September to December.

Ring-necked pheasant, chukar partridge and Hungarian partridge seasons are usually late in October. Annual regulations will stipulate the type of firearms that may be used for hunting various species. Shotguns are usually required for all but mountain grouse and turkeys.

### **Migratory Waterfowl . . .**

Regulations governing migratory waterfowl are established by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service although each state is allowed to select its own season dates within certain limitations set by the federal government. Waterfowl hunters must have a valid Montana bird license in addition to a migratory waterfowl stamp.

Information on Montana's migratory waterfowl season may be obtained after August 15 by writing the Montana Fish and Game Department in Helena. The waterfowl seasons usually open in October and close some time near the end of the year. A federal duck stamp must be purchased by waterfowl hunters. Waterfowl hunters must use shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, and plugged to make them incapable of holding more than three shells. Dogs are desirable to avoid loss of crippled birds.

Montana lies in portions of both of the Central and Pacific Flyways, so waterfowl regulations will vary with different areas of the state.

## **GAME TAGS**

Game tags are a part of regular big game licenses and also all special licenses. Montana law requires that these tags be detached from the licenses after proper completion and be immediately affixed to the carcass of the game animal for which the tag was issued. Directions are printed on the tags.





**Montana's larger rivers, once major arteries for transport to and from the northwestern wilderness, still beckon the adventurer. The river floater will find many, many miles of unharnessed river, quiet settings, and excellent fishing.**

## BOATING

Miles and miles of beautiful river waters await boating enthusiasts in Montana. Whether you want to mix fishing with boating, get away from it all, or just enjoy some lovely scenery, it's waiting for you here. The last remaining wild portion of the giant historic Missouri, for example, awaits the adventurer. If you'd prefer lakes, then we have those too, both large and small, from the high glacial fed basins to broad, brawling Fort Peck Reservoir.

Boats driven by machinery of more than 8 horsepower must be registered and numbered. A visiting boat requires no registration for a period of 90 days, provided the craft is already properly registered and numbered by the U.S. Coast Guard or by another state having a federally approved numbering system.

Regulations require all boats to carry one Coast Guard approved life-preserver readily accessible for each person on board. All children 12 years of age or younger must WEAR such life preservers while the boat is in motion if the boat is under 26 feet in length.

Running lights are required during hours of darkness. Coast Guard approved fire extinguishers or a Coast Guard approved fixed fire extinguishing system shall be carried by all motorboats except those motorboats which are of open construction, less than 26 feet in length, powered by outboard motors, and not carrying passengers for hire.

Water-skis shall not be used in a reckless or negligent manner and water-skiing shall not be engaged in during hours of darkness.

Montana law prohibits discharge of sewage, garbage, refuse, or waste into or upon any stream, river or lake.





# Fishing

## WHERE TO CATCH 'EM

Montana's vast and beautiful outdoors provides fishing in abundance, not only in quality but also in variety of fish. Following are brief descriptions of the major watersheds of the state and of the species of fish which are likely to be found therein.

Montana is traversed by four major streams—the Yellowstone, Missouri, Kootenai and Clark's Fork of the Columbia. These streams with their many tributaries and hundreds of connected lakes, offer to the angling enthusiast a diversity of fishing that can be found in few other places in the United States.

### YELLOWSTONE RIVER

The Yellowstone River watershed offers such a variety of fishing that it would take many pages to describe all of its waters in detail. The headwaters of this river are in Yellowstone National Park and it flows through Montana in a northeasterly course until it crosses the boundary line between Montana's Richland County and North Dakota. It joins the Missouri River a few miles after crossing into North Dakota. In many of its headwater streams, especially those originating in Yellowstone Park and the Beartooth Mountains, the fisherman will find splendid **cutthroat trout** fishing.





**Mr. E. H. (Peck) Bacon of Three Forks, Montana, took this 29-pound lunker brown trout from a lake near Ennis, Montana.**

As the Yellowstone flows down into Park, Sweetgrass and Stillwater Counties, the **rainbow** and **brown trout** reign supreme and a number of prize specimens of these species have been taken from this stretch of the river. It might also be mentioned here that he who prefers the art of **white-fishing** will have no trouble in indulging in this sport to his heart's content, as long as he remains in any of the waters within the three counties mentioned above.

By the time the Yellowstone River has reached Yellowstone County, it is biologically a much different stream than it was when it left Yellowstone Park. Improvements in water quality are gradually extending the brown trout fishery downstream so that catches are becoming more numerous in the river as far downstream as the mouth of the Big Horn River. During the summer months, prevailing temperatures of the lower Yellowstone are relatively high and this area provides good warm water fishing. Chief among these are the **sauger, walleye pike, channel catfish, fresh water drum** and **ling**. Paddlefishing near Glendive offers a unique sport during spring months.

The tributaries of the Yellowstone will also provide the angler with good to excellent fishing. Some of the more important tributary rivers and streams are the Stillwater River, Sweetgrass River, Shields River, Boulder River, Hellroaring Creek, Slough Creek and many others. **Cutthroat trout** can be found in the headwaters of these and **rainbow** and **brown trout** in the lower stretches. **Smallmouth bass**, somewhat unique in Montana, are found in the upper portions of the Tongue River. The Big Horn River



below the Yellowtail Afterbay Dam has developed into an excellent **rainbow** and **brown trout** fishery as far downstream as the Two Leggings Dam. Yellowtail Reservoir and the Afterbay Dam are providing good fishing for **rainbow** and **brown trout** and also for **walleye**.

## MISSOURI RIVER

This watershed embraces the largest part of Montana and drains all the remainder of the state lying east of the Continental Divide which is not drained by the Yellowstone.

In this watershed can undoubtedly be found the greatest diversity of fishing that exists anywhere in the United States. In its headwaters can be found **grayling, cutthroat, rainbow, brook** and **brown trout** while the lower stretches offer every advantage for warm water fishing ranging from **sturgeon, sauger, walleye** and **northern pike** to **sunfish, crappies, catfish, yellow perch, paddlefish** and **freshwater drum**.

It might be well to start at the Montana-Dakota line on this great drainage system and work upstream to develop a picture of the transition from warm water to trout fishing.

There are fine **sauger** and **walleye** fishing in the Main Missouri from the North Dakota line to the Fort Peck Dam, especially during the spring migration of these species. **Fresh water drum, channel catfish, ling** and various rough species such as **carp, suckers, goldeye** and many others, are commonly caught in this section of the river.

Immediately below the Fort Peck Dam there is good **sauger** and **walleye fishing**.

Some of the more important tributaries of the Missouri River are described in the following paragraphs.

## MILK RIVER

The Milk River has its confluence with the Missouri a few miles below the Fort Peck Dam. Good **walleye** and **sauger fishing** is found in this river, particularly in the spring.

The creation of Fresno Dam has added another fishing area to the northern part of Montana. **Northern pike**, and **walleye** are the principal inhabitants of this impoundment.

The headwaters of the Milk River which originates in Glacier County and Canada afford some mighty fine **rainbow trout** fishing.

## FORT PECK LAKE

Fort Peck Lake, being such a large body of water in a sparsely populated area, has hardly been touched so far as fishing is concerned. The available fishing facilities are limited to the Fort Peck Dam area, the areas below and above the dam, the Rock Creek area which is approached from Glendive, Montana, and the Hell Creek area on the south side of the lake which is approached through Miles City and Jordan.

Incidentally, this latter area is approached through the Badlands of Montana and the Missouri River breaks, famous in the history of the West. Many fossils have been found along this very scenic approach to Fort Peck Dam.



Another approach can be made from Lewistown in the Mosby area, coming in near the mouth of the Musselshell River. The pines area, south of the town of Fort Peck and on the north shore of the lake, is a favorite spot for many fishermen entering from Highway No. 2 on the north side of Fort Peck Lake.

Information regarding facilities available on Fort Peck Lake may be obtained by writing to the U. S. Army Engineers at Fort Peck, Montana. (Most of the developments on the lake were made by the Army Engineers for public recreational use.)

The waters of Fort Peck Reservoir, which embrace an acreage equal to all other lakes in the state combined, offer wonderful possibilities for diversified angling.

Outstanding catches of **northern pike, sauger, crappie and yellow perch** are made consistently. **Walleye, rainbow trout, channel catfish, ling** and **freshwater drum** add variety to the catch. A unique species, the **paddlefish** or **Polyodon**, which weighs up to 100 pounds or more and is often over six feet in length, is found in this lake. **Coho salmon** introduced during 1969-1970, add to fishing opportunities.

## MUSSELSHELL RIVER

As we progress upstream, we come to the junction of the Musselshell which drains a vast territory in Meagher, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell and Petroleum counties.

The headwaters of this stream contain **brook, brown trout and rainbow**, as do several of the large reservoirs such as Martinsdale, Deadman's Basin, and Harris.

The Musselshell River from Ryegate to its headwaters affords some excellent **brown trout** fishing in Montana and ranks as a very highly productive stream. The trout fisherman might well consider this stream one of the most important in Montana for **brown trout** fishing. Catfishing is good in the lower river area.

## JUDITH RIVER

The **Judith River** which converges with the Missouri quite some distance upstream from the Musselshell is also worthy of special mention as many of its tributaries are quite famous for the large specimens of **brown trout, brook** and **rainbow trout**.

One of the Judith's tributaries, Spring Creek, near Lewistown, is a good fishing stream and is also accessible to the angling public, an important feature of this stretch of water.

## MARIAS RIVER

The Marias River was named by Lewis and Clark who thought it might be the main stem of the Missouri. The **headwaters** of this stream on the eastern slope of the Rockies afford good **trout** fishing.

One of the creeks which flows into the Marias heads on Three Waters Peak in Glacier Park, from which water flows into the Atlantic (through the Marias), into the Pacific and into Hudson Bay. This example shows how Montana's Rockies stand at the peak of the continent.



Beginning with the Two Medicine River in Glacier Park, Cut Bank Creek, Birch Creek, Willow Creek and the main Marias River all afford **rainbow trout** fishing in the area adjacent to and east of Glacier Park. The Tiber impoundment has some **rainbow**. Good trout and **sauger** fishing is offered in the Marias River below the dam for 4 or 5 miles.

## MAIN MISSOURI RIVER

From Great Falls upstream, the main Missouri River becomes a **trout** stream worthy of special mention and from its waters are made many fine catches of **rainbow**, **brown trout** and **whitefish**.

Continuing upstream, the impoundments created by Holter Lake, Hauser Lake and Canyon Ferry Lake provide excellent **boat fishing**. Here catches of **brown trout** and **rainbow** are making these impoundments more important to lake fishermen who desire this type of fishing. The river proper is also very good fishing.

Further upstream near Three Forks, is where fishing history is really made, for it is at this point that three major watersheds—the Jefferson, the Madison and the Gallatin Rivers converge to form the Missouri River.

## GALLATIN RIVER

The Gallatin River, with its tributaries draining Gallatin, Park and Madison Counties and also a portion of Yellowstone National Park, offers a diversity of fishing for **brown**, **rainbow**, **cutthroat**, **brook trout**, and **whitefish**.

## MADISON RIVER

The Madison River, rising in Yellowstone National Park and draining much of Madison and Gallatin Counties, offers good fishing and attracts anglers from all parts of the country.

The headwaters of the Madison rise in Yellowstone National Park and carry a wealth of minerals from the Hot Springs area. **Rainbow** and **brown trout** are supreme and the river is a paradise for the **fly fisherman**. Hebgen and Meadow Lakes, artificial impoundments of the main Madison River, are famous for the sport they offer the fisherman who trolls and even to the ardent fly fisherman.

Near the headwaters of the Madison River are located Cliff, Wade and Hidden Lakes that provide excellent trout fishing, either by trolling or fly casting.

In the headwaters of both the Gallatin and Madison drainages, there are lakes that afford **rainbow**, **cutthroat**, **golden trout** and **grayling** fishing, important to the backwoods packer and outdoor enthusiast wishing to explore Montana's high mountain lakes.

## SUN RIVER

Entering the Missouri at Great Falls, the Sun originates in the high mountain country of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area to the West. Exciting pack-in fishing for **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout** is provided by the upper forks of the Sun above Gibson Dam.

The lower reaches of the Sun, down to the town of Vaughn, provides excellent **brown trout** and **rainbow** fishing.



## SMITH RIVER

Somewhat inaccessible over much of its length, the Smith River provides high quality float trip fishing in late spring and early summer. Access is gained at the fishing access sight near Fort Logan, northwest of the Town of White Sulphur Springs. High, rugged limestone cliffs, Indian paintings and caves add to the enjoyment of excellent **rainbow** and **brown trout** fishing. **Mountain whitefish** are also present in the Smith in good numbers.

Below the mouth of Hound Creek, access to the Smith may be gained through private land.

## JEFFERSON RIVER

The Jefferson River, which is the third of the three forks of the Missouri, is formed by the junction of the Big Hole River and the Beaverhead River. The Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers are well supplied with **brown** and **rainbow** trout.

This is a popular drainage for fishermen of the southwestern section of the state of Montana and the fishermen coming from neighboring states west of the Divide.

In the upper regions of the Jefferson Drainage is found splendid **brook trout** fishing. **Cutthroat trout** are abundant in some of the upper watersheds in this area. This river also provides good fishing for **mountain whitefish**, especially during the winter.

## THE BIG HOLE RIVER

The Big Hole River in southwestern Montana is very famous for its **brown trout** and **rainbow trout** fishing, and its upper watersheds afford **grayling** and **brook trout** fishing. People from many states travel to the Big Hole each year to participate in this outdoor recreation.

It may be said that the Beaverhead and the Big Hole Rivers will meet the expectations of any trout fisherman, fishing with either **spinning equipment** or **dry fly gear**.

In this drainage there are many high mountain lakes that may be explored for their fishing and camping by those who wish to go into some of the back country.

## CLARK FORK OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER

So far only the waters on the eastern slope of the Rockies have been covered. Let's cross the Divide and drop down into the headwaters of the Clark Fork of the Columbia River which has its origin in Silver Bow, Powell and Granite Counties.

Practically all of its tributaries in these counties afford very good **brook trout** and **cutthroat fishing**, while **rainbow** may be found further down stream. **Brown trout** are also to be found on the western slope. The Little Blackfoot which flows through Powell County is an outstanding example of a **brown trout** stream.

## GEORGETOWN LAKE

Of all the headwaters of the Clark Fork drainage, Georgetown Lake, which was created many years ago by impoundment, may be considered the best lake fishing that is accessible by motor traffic.

The Fish and Game Department has maintained a good supply of **rainbow trout** by stocking and regulating this species throughout the



years. Many large catches and limits of fish are taken annually by both **trolling** and **fly fishing**. The lake itself is in a very beautiful setting of mountains and timberland and is an ideal location for fishing and outings.

### FLINT CREEK - ROCK CREEK

Flint Creek, the outlet of Georgetown Lake, is a part of the headwaters of the Clark Fork River.

Rock Creek, which is almost entirely within Granite County and which flows into the Clark Fork a few miles below Bonita, is one of the finest **trout** streams on the western slope. It is mainly a **rainbow** and **cutthroat** stream. **Rainbow** and **brown trout** are found in the lower stretches and **cutthroat** in its headwaters.

### BIG BLACKFOOT RIVER

As the Clark Fork passes through the town of Bonner, it is joined by the Big Blackfoot River which drains much of Powell, Lewis and Clark and Missoula Counties with its headwaters in the famous Clearwater Lakes region.

The Big Blackfoot, like many of the streams on the western slope, is not drained by a large number of irrigation diversions and is one of the outstanding **trout** streams in that region. This stream, like Rock Creek, produces principally **rainbow**, **cutthroat trout** and **brown trout**.

Near Missoula, the Big Blackfoot River joins the Clark Fork of the Columbia and drains a large area east and north on the west side of the Continental Divide. This drainage area affords **rainbow**, **cutthroat** and **Brown trout** fishing in the entire area.

Joining the Big Blackfoot River is the Clearwater River which drains the Clearwater chain of lakes. The headwater lakes (Clearwater, Summit, Rainy, Alva and Inez) have **cutthroat trout**.

**Sockeye salmon** have been introduced into several of the Clearwater Lakes and these introductions further supplement the fishing enjoyment of this region.

In addition to the **brook trout**, these lakes also have another member of the char family—the **Dolly Varden** which is sometimes called **bull trout**. The area is most scenic and is well worthwhile for the traveling angler to explore and enjoy.

The Blackfoot River from Lincoln to Bonner is a valuable recreational area which affords excellent float trips. Float trip maps are available for the Clark Fork, Big Blackfoot and Bitterroot Rivers at the Fish and Game Headquarters in Missoula, Mont.

The Clearwater chain of lakes and all of the area of the Clearwater drainage north and south of the Blackfoot River running east and west comprises a huge area of recreational possibilities with key passes through and into the upper South Fork of the Flathead and the Bob Marshall Wilderness area. Dude ranches and guides are available in this area at all times of the year.

### BITTERROOT RIVER

A few miles below the city of Missoula, the Bitterroot River contributes its water to the Clark Fork of the Columbia. Fishing possibilities in this area are almost unlimited. Practically all of Ravalli County lies in the Bitterroot drainage, and at its headwaters may be found many beautiful



sub-Alpine lakes which provide predominately **cutthroat trout** fishing.

**Rainbow, brook** and **brown trout** are the principal inhabitants of the Bitterroot River. During the winter months, **whitefishing** is a very popular sport.

## LOWER FLATHEAD RIVER

Not far from the town of Paradise, the Clark Fork of the Columbia is joined by the Flathead River. The Flathead River below Flathead Lake is a large meandering stream and catches of **cutthroat, Dolly Varden, brown trout** and **rainbow trout** can be made in this area. It, too, is a stream well suited for **boat trips**.

## FLATHEAD LAKE

From Flathead Lake upward, including all of the tributaries and connected lakes of this vast drainage system, the utmost in fishing, recreation and pleasure may be expected.

At the present time, Flathead Lake is **open** to fishing **the year around** for all species of fish in open waters and through the ice. **Cutthroat, Dolly Varden, mackinaw** and **kokanee** are the most sought game fish found in this lake.

However, **bass** fishing enthusiasts may find a number of protected bays and side sloughs where specimens ranging up to five and six pounds are not at all uncommon.

**Perch** fishing is popular in Polson Bay during the late summer months and through the winter. While some specimens are not as large as those caught in the warmer waters in the eastern part of the state, the meat is of a very high quality.

Within the waters of Flathead Lake are found the **Rocky Mountain** and **Lake Superior whitefish** with many of these specimens averaging two to three pounds.

One of the highlights of the Flathead Lake fishing comes during the fall of the year when the inland water **sockeye salmon** (also called **kokanee**), having completed their four-year cycle of growth, reach maturity and congregate on the many gravel-rimmed shores of the lake to spawn. It is at this point that hundreds of fishermen break out snagging equipment.

## UPPER FLATHEAD RIVER

Flathead River above Flathead Lake is divided into three main tributaries—the North Fork, the Middle Fork and the South Fork. The fishing in all of these is indeed worthy of special mention and consists principally of **cutthroat, Dolly Varden**, and **mountain whitefish**. During the fall, large concentrations of **kokanee** ascend the river and are available to snaggers.

In this river system are many remote and primitive areas including the famous Bob Marshall Wilderness area, accessible only by trail. To those who wish to sacrifice the comfort and ease of riding on the main highways and hit the back trails on foot or horseback will come the rich reward of hard-fighting **trout**.

Over half of the Glacier Park area is drained by tributaries of the Flathead. In this area are many lakes which afford fine **cutthroat, rainbow** and **kokanee** fishing.

Whitefish Lake, located on the Whitefish River, is most famous for its large **mackinaw trout** and good catches are constantly made from this



body of water. In addition, the creels may contain **cutthroat**, **Dolly Varden** and **kokanee**.

## SWAN RIVER

The Swan River drains into Flathead Lake from Swan Lake. The Swan River drainage is about 60 miles long and is comprised of many miles of excellent **cutthroat**, **rainbow**, **brook trout**, and **Dolly Varden** fishing in the main river and its tributaries. The headwaters of the Swan River are Holland and Lindberg Lakes. There is a through highway system from Big Fork, Montana, at the confluence of the Swan River, and Flathead Lake, south through the valley between the Swan Range and the Mission Range, through the Clearwater drainage to the Big Blackfoot River. This makes an excellent large fishing area comprised of both lake and stream fishing.

## LOWER CLARK FORK RIVER

From the mouth of the Flathead River, the Clark Fork River winds down through canyons and forms Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs on the boundary between Montana and Idaho.

These reservoirs can be reached handily and access is available from the highway for boat fishing. The lakes contain **rainbow trout** and **cutthroat trout**.

## KOOTENAI RIVER

The Kootenai River, situated in the very northwest corner of Montana entirely within Lincoln County, rises in Canada. It flows into Montana and through Idaho, then back into Canada, through the Kootenai Lakes and thence into the Columbia River.

This region possesses a number of outstanding streams such as the Fisher River, Tobacco River, Yaak River and many smaller tributaries in addition to a large number of mountain lakes. All of these abound with **trout** of either **cutthroat**, **brook** or **rainbow** variety.

The main Kootenai River offers very good **cutthroat** and **Dolly Varden** angling, and the only **sturgeon** fishing in northwestern Montana. Winter fishing on this river provides the largest **mountain whitefish** in the state, and abundant **ling**.

## LAKE FISHING IN EASTERN MONTANA

In the development of the West, everyone considers the raising of cattle as a primary industry. Coupled with the livestock industry in later years was a program geared to increased production. With this came the necessity for water.

Through different governmental and state agencies, stock water reservoirs and lakes ranging in size from five to five hundred acres were created as catching basins for snow and rain water runoff. On the prairies of eastern Montana, throughout both the Missouri and Yellowstone River drainage, are many of these reservoirs.

Many isolated waters of the prairie lands provide excellent **rainbow** fishing while others offer **bass**, **blue gills**, **crappie**, **walleye** and **northern pike**.

Anyone wishing to roam over the historic prairie lands where the buffalo and antelope formerly were the only inhabitants will come upon small lakes with fishing for both warm and cold water species.



FISHING ACCESS SITES

\* Indicates areas where overnight camping fee is required (subject to change). \$1.00 per night; \$10.00 per season (June 1 - September 15). Legend - T—toilet; TA—Table; S—stove or fireplace; BL—boat launching possible; W—drinking water; U—under development; ND—no development.

LOCATION FROM TOWN	NAME OF AREA	FACILITIES	LAKE AREA
Absarokee Town	Absaroka	T	
18 mi. s.w. of Absarokee	Stillwater R., Castle Rock	T, TA, S, W	
19 mi. s. of Absarokee	Stillwater R., Moraine	ND	
11 mi. s. of Absarokee	Stillwater R., Rosebud Isle	T, TA	
5 mi. s. of Absarokee	Stillwater R., Cliff Swallow	T, TA, S	
16 mi. s.w. of Alberton	Big Pine	T, TA, S	
22 mi. s.w. of Alberton	Forks	T, TA, S	
20 mi. s. of Anaconda	Big Hole R., Sportsmen's Park	T, TA, S	
25 mi. s.w. of Anaconda	Big Hole R., Fishtrap Creek	T, TA, S	
12 mi. s. of Augusta	*Bean Lake	U	268 acres
8 mi. s. of Baker	Sportsman's Pond	T, TA, S, BL	
20 mi. n.w. of Baker	Rush Hall	ND	
4 mi. s.w. of Belgrade	W. Gallatin R., Cameron Br.	T	
5 mi. n. of Bigfork	Flathead R., Sportsman's Br.	T, TA, S	
1 mi. s. of Bigfork	Bigfork	T, TA, S, BL	
Town of Bigfork	Flathead Lake, River's End	T, W	
6 mi. e. of Bigfork	Loon Lake	BL	
6 mi. w. of Big Timber	Yellowstone R., Grey Bear	ND	57.3 acres
10 mi. s. of Bonita	Rock Creek-Welcome Creek	T, TA, S	
8 mi. s. of Bonita	Rock Creek-Tamarack Creek	T, TA, S	
25 mi. e. of Bonita	Blackfoot Dr., Ninemile Prairie	T, TA, S	
1 mi. w. of Bozeman	Bozeman Pond	T, TA, S, W	
14 mi. w. of Brady	Arod Lake	T, TA, S	
12 mi. s. of Cameron	Madison R., Varney Bridge	T	
1 mi. s. of Cardwell	Cardwell	T, TA, S	
4 mi. s.e. of Carter	Carter Ferry	ND	
1/2 mi. s. of Columbus	*Itch-Kep-Pe	T, TA, S, BL, W	
6 mi. s. of Columbus	*Stillwater River, White Bird	T, TA, S, W	
1 mi. s. of Columbus	Stillwater R., Fireman's Point	T, TA, S, W	
1 mi. s. of Corwin Springs	Corwin Springs	T, S, TA	
4 mi. n. of Craig	Dearborn Bridge	ND	
4 mi. s. of Dillon	Barrett's Siding	T, TA, S	
		T, TA	



Town of <b>Emigrant</b>	Emigrant	T, TA, S	107 acres
10 mi. s.w. of <b>Emigrant</b>	Dailey Lake	BL, T, U	
4 mi. n.e. of <b>Ennis</b>	Madison R., Valley Garden	T, TA, S	
6 mi. s. of <b>Ennis</b>	Madison R., Burnt Tree Hole	T	
6 mi s. of <b>Ennis</b>	Madison R., Eight Mile Ford	T	
8 mi. n. of <b>Ennis</b>	Meadow Lake (Ennis Lake)	T	3800 acres
35 mi. s. of <b>Ennis</b>	Raynolds' Pass	ND	
6 mi. n.w. of <b>Eureka</b>	Carpenter Lake	T, TA, BL, S	91.4 acres
7 mi. n.w. of <b>Eureka</b>	Sophie Lake	T, TA, S, BL	232 acres
5 mi. s.e. of <b>Eureka</b>	Glen Lake	BL, S, TA, T	
1 mi. e. of <b>Florence</b>	Bitterroot R., (Florence Br.)	T, TA, S	
3 mi. n.e. of <b>Florence</b>	*Chief Looking Glass	T, TA, S, BL, W	
4 1/2 mi. s.w. of <b>Fortine</b>	Loon Lake II	ND	100 acres
5 1/2 mi. s.w. of <b>Fortine</b>	Marl Lake	ND	200 acres
3 mi. n. of <b>Fort Peck</b>	Fort Peck Dredge Cuts	T, BL	
12 mi. s. of <b>Fromberg</b>	Blewater	T, TA	
30 mi. s. of <b>Gallatin Gateway</b>	Gallatin R., and Ramshorn	Lake T	
3 mi. e. of <b>Gardiner</b>	Queen of the Waters	ND	
1 mi. e. of <b>Glendive</b>	Hollecker Pond	T, TA	10 acres
15 mi. n.e. of <b>Glendive</b>	Intake	BL, TA, T, S	
2 mi. s. of <b>Glen</b>	Big Hole River, Glen	T, TA, S	
20 mi. w. of <b>Harlowton</b>	Musselshell R., Selkirk	T, TA, S, W	
8 mi. s. of <b>Hardin</b>	Two Leggins	ND	
29 mi. s. of <b>Hardin</b>	Big Horn River	ND	
12 mi. s. of <b>Havre</b>	Bear Paw Reservoir	T, TA, S, W	
8 mi. e. of <b>Harrison</b>	Harrison Lake	T, TA, S, BL	868 acres
25 mi. s.w. of <b>Helena</b>	Park Lake	ND	35 acres
28 mi. s. of <b>Helena</b> (poor road)	Tizer Lakes	ND	20 acres
6 mi. s.w. of <b>Hobson</b>	Ackley Lake	ND	241 acres
2 mi. e. of <b>Kalispell</b>	Flathead R., Old Steel Bridge	TA	
10 mi. n. of <b>Kalispell</b>	Whitefish River	ND	
10 mi. w. of <b>Kalispell</b>	Kila	T, TA, S	150 acres
10 mi. n.e. of <b>Kalispell</b>	Flathead R., Pressentine Bar	T, TA	
35 mi. w. of <b>Kalispell</b>	Crystal Lake	BL	
5 mi. n. of <b>Lewistown</b>	Lower Carter's Pond	T, TA, S	15 acres
6 mi. n. of <b>Lewistown</b>	Upper Carter's Pond	T, TA, S	15 acres
8 mi. s. of <b>Livingston</b>	Yellowstone R., Mallard's Rest	T, TA, S, W	
1 mi. s. of <b>Livingston</b>	Yellowstone R., Paradise	T, TA, S	
12 mi. e. of <b>Livingston</b>	Yellowstone R., Sheep Mountain	T, TA, S	
13 mi. s. of <b>Livingston</b>	Loch Leven	U	
10 mi. n. of <b>Logan</b>	Missouri R., Fairweather	ND	



LOCATION FROM TOWN	NAME OF AREA	FACILITIES	LAKE AREA
2 mi. e. of Manhattan	Gallatin R., Four Corners	T	
10 mi. s. of McLeod	Boulder River—Natural Bridge	ND	
3 mi. n. of Melrose	Maidenrock	T, TA, S, W	38 acres
15 mi. s.w. of Melrose	Browne's Lake	T, TA, S, BL	
21 mi. s. of Miles City	Twelve Mile Dam	T	40 acres
2 mi. w. of Miles City	Branum Lake	T, TA, S	
10 mi. e. of Missoula	*Turah (Clark Fork River)	T, TA, S, BL, W	
1½ mi. n.e. of Nye	Stillwater R., Buffalo Jump	T, TA, S	
8 mi. w. of Ovando	Cottonwood Creek	TA	85.4 acres
8 mi. n.w. of Ovando	Upsata Lake	T, TA, BL	
15 mi. w. of Ovando	Clearwater Crossing	T, TA, S	
3 mi. w. of Ovando	Monture Creek	T, TA, S, W	
12 mi. w. of Ovando	Blackfoot River—River Junction	T, TA, S	
4 mi. s. of Ovando	N. Fork Blackfoot R., Harry Morgan	ND	
21 mi. n.w. of Polson	Juniper Beach	ND	
Between Roberts & Red Lodge	Rock Creek—Beaver Lodge	ND	
Between Roberts & Red Lodge	Rock Creek—Bull Springs	T, TA, S	
Between Roberts & Red Lodge	Rock Creek—Horsethief Station	T, TA, S	
Between Roberts & Red Lodge	Rock Creek—Water Birch	T, TA	
1 mi. n. of Reedpoint	Indian Fort	T, TA, S, W, BL	
5 mi. w. of Reedpoint	Bratten	ND	15 acres
12 mi. n. of Saco	Cole Ponds	T, TA, S	17.9 acres
12 mi. s. of Seeley Lake	Harper Lake	T, TA, S, BL	35 acres
15 mi. s.w. of Sidney	Gartside Lake	ND	
19 mi. e. of Shelby	Devon Reservoir	ND	
1 mi. e. of Three Forks	Three Forks Gravel Pits	T	
12 mi. s. of Three Forks	Madison R., Greycliff	T, TA, S, W	
5 mi. s. of Townsend	Deepdale	T, TA, S, BL	
10 mi. n.w. of Trout Creek	Noxon Rapids	T, BL	
5 mi. s.e. of Troy	Savage Lake	ND	
5 mi. s. of Whitehall	Jefferson R., Parrot Castle	T, TA, S	147 acres
5 mi. s.w. of Whitefish	Blanchard Lake	T, TA, S, BL	
2 mi. w. of Whitefish	Skyles Lake	ND	
3 mi. n.w. of Whitefish	Whitefish Satellite	T, TA, S	25 acres
1 mi. s. of Whitetail	Whitetail Reservoir	T, TA, S	
18 mi. n. of White Sulphur Springs	Smith River	T, TA, S	
2.5 mi. n.w. of White Sulphur Springs	Fort Baker	ND	
3 mi. w. of Willow Creek	Jefferson R., Williams' Bridge	ND	



# Big Game



**A formidable bull moose—largest member of the deer family.** Photo by Gerry Atwell.

When the leaves start turning into brilliant reds and golds of Montana's "Indian Summer" and the air has that fresh autumn feeling, then the big game hunters come to life. Dreams of again stalking that big buck begin to materialize. Rifles are carefully sighted in and other gear is made ready. The big game hunt is about to start.

In a state as large as Montana, there is a lot of room to hunt, so the anxious nimrod must decide where and when he wants to go.



## WHERE TO HUNT

As much as we individually enjoy bragging about choice hunting grounds, past experience has steered the department away from pushing local spots too heavily, except to accomplish certain management goals. An unduly heavy concentration of hunters doesn't sit too well with persons who enjoy elbow room as a part of their hunt. Also, a hot spot may suddenly become inaccessible or tough hunting due to weather and hunters who have been directed there with visions of a lead-pipe cinch are righteously aggravated. About the best we can do is give a general idea on various sections of Montana real estate, and the final choice will be your own.

Elk hunting is confined almost entirely to the mountainous part of the state. There is also a herd in the Missouri River Breaks near Fort Peck Reservoir. In the northwestern section, the elk are typically scattered in small bands which make up quite a good population overall considering the large area involved. Hunting this heavily forested and often steep area often requires close range stalking and may involve considerable physical exertion. Early morning and late evening searches of open parks, slides, burned, logged, and blown-down places is a good system of hunting. Logging roads traverse much of the timber country, but snows can choke many of them off early in the year. Much of the rough country is accessible only by foot or by horse.

Further south, most of the mountains along the Montana-Idaho divide are rough and not readily accessible by road, but foothill areas can be gotten into without packing and, depending on weather, can offer good elk hunting. There are also large expanses of heavily timbered areas in the west central portion, west of the divide, but the terrain is more open compared to the northwestern Montana area.

Over most of the southwestern Montana, and along the eastern slopes of the Continental Divide, most of the foothill areas are accessible by road and hike-in, though the higher remote country is still hunted by packing in. In this section of the state, the timbered areas are opened up with more and larger park-like open areas. Timber is still fairly heavy in many areas, but the trees are smaller and lack the heavy undergrowth characteristic of west central and northwest forests.

Also, in the southwest and east slope area of Montana, elk band together in larger herds as they are driven from summer ranges by severe weather. In some spots, a high hunter success is quite dependent upon weather moving elk from highlands into lower, more accessible foothills.

For the deer hunter most of the state offers ample opportunity to get some shooting.

The range of the white-tailed deer east of the divide is mostly limited to the large river bottoms, with the exception of the Snowy Mountains near Lewistown, the Longpine Hills near Ekalaka, and the Bear Paw Mountains near Havre. Excellent whitetail hunting is found throughout the northwest portion of the state, particularly in Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Mineral and Powell counties, and in northeastern Montana along the Milk River and its tributaries, the Lower Missouri,





Frenchman Creek and Big Muddy Creek. The whitetails are, of course, more difficult to hunt than mule deer.

The southeastern part of Montana has been a consistently good deer producer for both mulies and whitetails. The \$35 nonresident deer licenses are largely limited to this part of the state.

Two examples of the diversified type of terrain to be hunted in this locality are the rolling hills of Ponderosa Pine in southwestern Powder River County, and the spectacular Missouri Breaks in northern Garfield County. Headquarters for the Missouri River Breaks hunter would likely be Jordan or Circle while access to the Powder River area is from Ashland or Broadus.

Moving further west, a more mountainous type of hunting can be expected. Most of the eastern slopes of the Continental Divide are accessible by roads and trails, at least into foothill areas, as are isolated mountain ranges to the east.

Most of the foothill and slopes areas along the mountains offer good mule deer hunting. As the mountains are topped and one moves west, the domain of mule deer gives way to whitetail ranges. High mountain and back country hunting is also available in the mountains, primarily by pack-in.

Forming almost a continuous mountain chain to the east of the Continental Divide are the Little Belt Mountains with access from Stanford, Harlowton and Neihart. Just a bit east of Great Falls and south of Fort Benton are the small but mighty Highwood Mountains. Surrounding Lewistown in the geographic center of the state are the Big Snowy Mountains, Judith Mountains, and the Moccasin Mountains.



## WEATHER

In mountainous country, weather is an unpredictable commodity, but usually October in Montana is a vast panorama of vivid color, with the brisk, delightful weather known as Indian Summer. After the first of November, cold and snow should be anticipated. In fact, those extra woolies won't feel bad at all. The following summary is anyone's guess, but it is a fair yardstick of average weather.

September 1-15—Warm to hot—occasional rain.

September 15-30—Warm with occasional early snow storms in the higher altitudes.

October 1-30—Brisk to cool—mountain snow storms very probable.

November 1-30—Cool to cold—permanent snows arrive about mid-November.

December 1—"B-r-r-r."

The best big game hunting can be done when tracks are clearly visible after a light snowfall. Hunters are cautioned to be extremely careful with fire at all times.

## EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING

If properly dressed, the weather will not be a problem and long-handled underwear with good shirt and heavy pants are standard equipment. A windbreaker jacket or parka will take care of any "unusual weather." Hunters are required by law to wear a hat, shirt, or jacket of a bright red, yellow, or orange color. Beginning May 1, 1972, big game hunters must wear outdoor fluorescent orange.

If you plan to be out more than one or two days, it is a good idea to carry a complete change of clothing in case you get wet. A long raincoat or slicker and a broad-brimmed or billed hat will give added protection against sudden rain or snow storms.

Footwear is most important and pacs or insulated rubber boots are good for warmth and traction. Be sure to watch the bottoms for tread. Mountain sides are very slippery and you should have a cleated shoe. Good warm socks and gloves or mittens are important also.

Routine equipment should include a good hunting knife, a waterproof match case, several feet of rope and a hatchet. The trip may be more profitable and pleasant if gear includes a small flashlight with extra batteries and bulbs, notebook and paper, binoculars, pocket knife, collapsible drinking cup, compass, sun glasses and photographic equipment to record your hunting expedition.

Of course, an important item is a gun. Without trying to start an argument with the small caliber enthusiasts, we suggest a big gun as proper equipment for elk and the larger game animals. Almost 40 percent of the big game hunters in Montana favor the 30.06. The .270 and .300 magnum or other guns of comparable killing power are satisfactory.



Be familiar with your firearm and have it sighted in prior to arrival.  
**Don't practice in the hunting area!**

## PHYSICAL CONDITION

Big game hunting is not for soft, flabby muscles. It is rugged work, particularly hunting goats, sheep, bear and elk. You must expect to walk, or at least ride horseback much of the time. Try to be in fair condition before you arrive. Also expect to get up before daylight—dawn is the best time to spot game.

## OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES

**A list of the licensed outfitters may be obtained by writing to the Fish and Game Department in Helena. A list of resident big game license holders is not available.**

**Nonresidents hunting** deer in most special deer districts or antelope in special antelope districts need not be accompanied by a guide. In all other hunting districts, nonresident big game hunters must be accompanied by a resident licensed to hunt game animals. The resident license holder need not be a licensed guide or outfitter.

Beginning May 1 of 1972, nonresidents hunting big game on land within any national forest, wilderness area, national game refuge, or state game range must be accompanied by a licensed outfitter, professional guide, or resident guide. The nonresident's hunting license must bear the signature and license number of the outfitter or resident accompanying him.

A landowner or agent may guide on his own or leased land or may authorize nonresidents to hunt on such land without a guide on fenced property. The hunter's license must have the signature of the landowner or agent.

The commission may continue to waive guide requirements for nonresident deer and antelope hunters in special deer and antelope areas.

Prices for guide service vary but will run about \$50.00 and up per day. This amount includes the cost of everything except personal gear. Your outfitter will probably meet you at the nearest bus, air or rail terminal and will furnish transportation to his headquarters. Horses, saddles, camping equipment, food, cook or wrangler will also be provided.

The Montana Fish and Game Department does not recommend specific guides, but suggests that hunters contact one or more guides in the areas they select to hunt. Determine from them what they offer and what it will cost.

## BEAR

**Black bear** and its color phases (brown and cinnamon) may be hunted in Montana from spring through fall, according to current year's regulations. There are a good number of black bears throughout mountainous Montana, and their numbers are barely scratched by hunters. This species is a trophy animal and its meat does not have to be used. There is both a spring and fall hunting season on black bears.



Dogs are not permitted for use in hunting bears. This makes bruin a real challenge to hunters, for he is a wary and crafty prey. Bears are timber dwellers, although an occasional wanderer will drift into the open areas and even into towns in search of food.

**Grizzly bear** hunting is restricted to regular fall seasons, except in areas where there is an early elk season. In such cases, the grizzly season coincides with that set for elk. Persons who have killed a grizzly are not eligible for another grizzly hunting license for a period of seven years after the kill.

Not many grizzly are killed because of their relative scarcity and wary nature, but their big ham-shaped tracks can be found over much of the state's wilderness area.

Known as the "white bear" to the Indians, the silvertip or grizzly is called **Ursus horribilis** by the scientific gents.

Grizzlies are a true wilderness species and completely shun the activities of man and civilization. They live and thrive in the remote back country. Only Alaska, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho have any significant number of grizzlies.

Most bear hunting is, of course, in western mountainous areas. Nearly all of Montana west of the Continental Divide and the eastern slopes of the main divide offer black bear hunting. Some of the areas of higher concentration are the Swan Valley, South and Middle Forks of the Flathead, the Whitefish Range, the St. Regis River, Thompson Falls west, and the country around Libby. Side drainages of these areas are best because they cut through steep topography and afford hunters a good view of side hills. Hides are usually prime and suitable for trophies from early spring until mid-June, and from about mid-August until the bears hibernate.

Grizzly bear areas are more confined since they require a remote, wilderness type of home range. Practically all of the grizzly range lies within the Swan drainage of the Mission Range, South and Middle Forks of the Flathead, Sun River area, Upper Blackfoot, and the Cabinet mountains. An occasional grizzly is taken from the Absaroka country in south-central Montana. Grizzly seasons run concurrently with deer and elk seasons in the corresponding hunting districts.

## MOUNTAIN GOAT

Hunting for mountain goats is open in several areas. In one, there is no limit on numbers of goat licenses to be issued. Under law, non-residents are limited to no more than 10 percent of the total goat licenses issued for limited areas, unless all resident applications have been satisfied.

Since goats habitually live in more precipitous terrain, the goat hunter should expect to do some climbing during his hunt and should take stock of his physical capabilities before heading out.

A nice goat cape makes an attractive and quite unique hunting trophy. Current regulations will describe all open areas.

## BIGHORN SHEEP

Many hunters consider the Rocky Mountain Bighorn as tops among game animals, both as a trophy and as excellent eating.

Several areas are annually open to mountain sheep hunting. One or two large, rugged areas are open to an unlimited number of license



holders. It is, incidentally, a difficult area to hunt, sheep are scattered, and hunter success has consequently been quite low.

Hunting is usually limited to taking rams with  $\frac{3}{4}$  curl horn. The number of sheep licenses which may be issued to nonresidents in any season is limited to 10 percent of the total number of licenses allotted for respective districts. Nonresidents will not be issued licenses in districts where quotas are less than 10.

Good physical condition and proper field gear are probably more important for hunters after sheep and goats than those after other game animals.

## **ANTELOPE**

The prairie pronghorn of eastern Montana affords excellent hunting along with deer from the Dakota border to the eastern foothills of the Continental Divide.

Properly prepared, antelope meat is a rare delicacy, and for the trophy-minded, many fine heads are to be found in Montana.

There are a great number of good antelope areas in Montana, but competition for permits is keen over a large part of the state. The real antelope country takes in a large chunk of southeastern and east central Montana. Because of the relatively sparse human population in southeastern Montana, and the large number of antelope, this area is the best to apply for, so far as chances of getting a license is concerned. The antelope are there too. This is, however, a long way from elk country and poses a travel problem for hunters wishing to hunt mountain country and to join the antelope hunt also. Thirty-five dollar nonresident licenses are available only in the event licenses are left over after the general drawings in August. Nonresident holders of \$151.00 licenses may apply for antelope for an additional \$10.00.

## **MOOSE**

This majestic animal, largest of the deer family, has been a challenge to big game hunters all over the world.

Each year licenses are available in several areas of Montana for moose. Most of the moose population is found in Southwestern and Northwestern counties. Nonresidents will not be issued licenses in districts where quotas are less than 10.

## **HEADS AND HORNS**

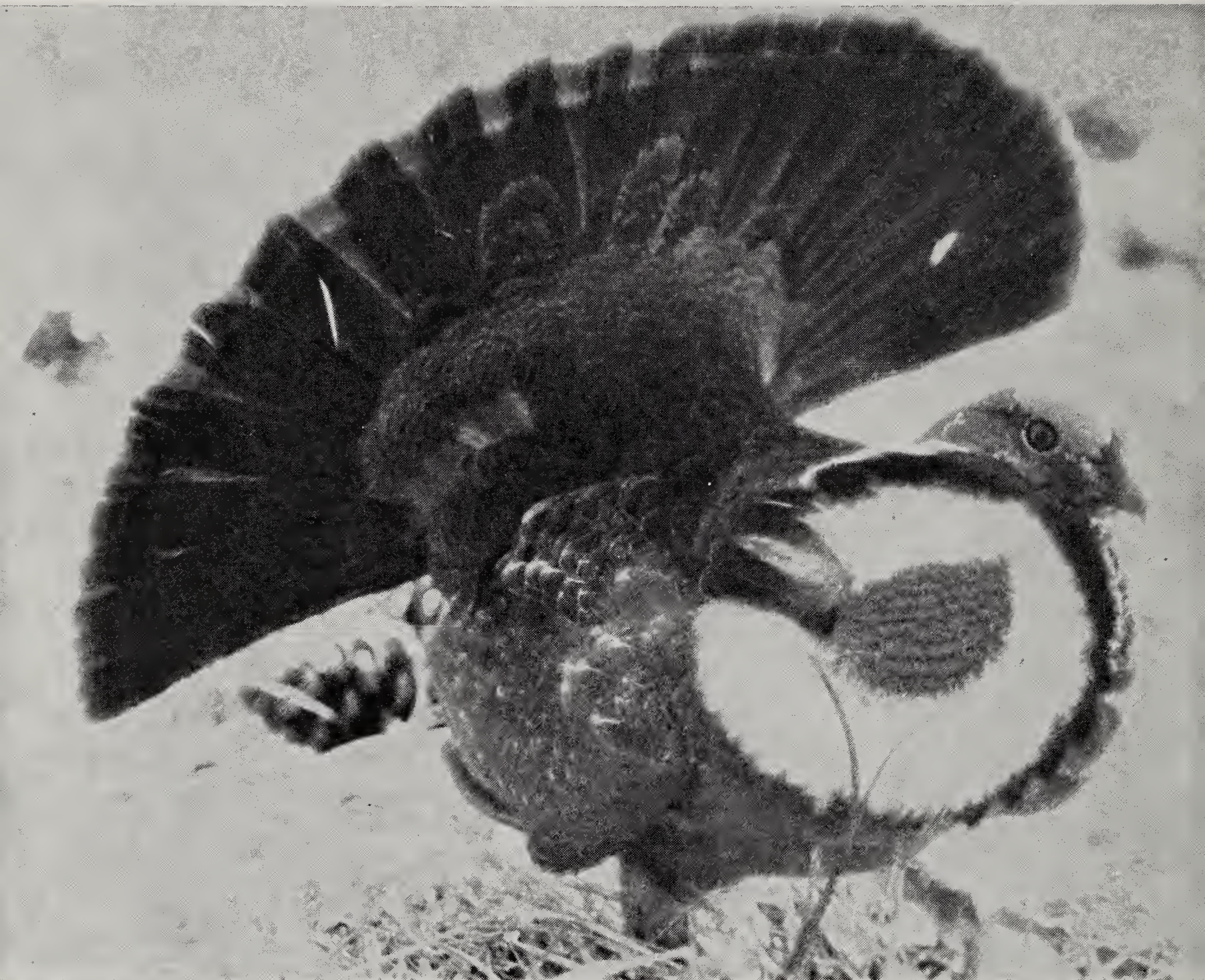
In the past, Montana has produced several record trophy heads ranking among the top ten in the world. One elk head taken by Fred Mercer in 1958 rated the coveted Sagamore Hill Award.

Hunters can save their big game animal heads by carefully cutting along the back of the neck bone and around the collar and skinning off the hide. The head should be taken to a taxidermist as soon as possible after the kill for best cleaning and mounting results. Every effort should be made to keep the trophy free of grease and blood.

If the hunter desires only the antlers or horn of his animal, he should be sure to leave enough of the skull attached to the horns to provide a good base.



# Upland Game Birds



Of all forms of hunting, upland game bird wingshooting is probably the most varied and most demanding of skill in the use of **scatterguns**. Wing-shooting provides a maximum amount of thrills and requires a minimum of equipment and expense. The joys of the hunt are by no means over when the bag is full, for the ultimate in good eating qualities are to be found in Montana's upland game birds.



## **GROUSE**

Today, the mainstays of Montana grouse hunting are the sharptail and sage grouse in the eastern plains and prairies, and in the mountainous portion of western Montana, the ruffed grouse, blue grouse and Franklin's grouse or fool hen.

### **SHARP-TAILED GROUSE**

The sharp-tailed grouse is the common species of the eastern Montana prairies and grasslands. They are plump birds, weighing up to two and one-half pounds.

These feathered missiles get away quickly, and during flight give themselves away by cackling. Like the sage grouse, they have their population ups-and-downs, but since they occupy a much larger range, they can and do stand greater hunting pressure.

### **SAGE GROUSE**

The sage grouse is the largest representative of the prairie game birds, with cocks averaging five and one-half pounds in weight. They were formerly abundant in 15 states. At present they are found in only 11 states and hunted in nine. These are Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and North Dakota.

### **RUFFED GROUSE**

The ruffed grouse is a bird of the tangled alder and willow thickets that grow along most small stream courses in the western areas.

Where it has learned the lesson of wariness from contact with civilization, it offers probably the best sport of any of the mountain birds. The flush is always noisy and, if possible, the bird will put some obstacles between himself and the hunter.

### **BLUE GROUSE**

Blue grouse are birds of the high-timbered mountains. They usually move into foothills during spring where they mate, nest, and rear their young. Autumn finds them again moving into highlands to high alpine parks and meadows and in the dark fir forests where they spend a great deal of time in the trees. The blue grouse is one of Montana's finest game birds and offers the sportsman a chance to get into the mountains during Montana's beautiful and delightful Indian Summer or early fall.

### **FRANKLIN'S GROUSE (FOOL HEN)**

Franklin's grouse is associated with spruce and lodgepole forests and is usually found near water. Only in portions of our northwestern counties and in some of the primitive areas can it be considered at all common.

Its gullible nature has given it the name of "Fool Hen."



## GROUSE SEASONS

Hunting seasons for both prairie and mountain grouse are usually opened concurrently. Seasons are usually in September.

Best sharp-tailed grouse hunting is found in the dry-land wheatfields in southeastern Montana, in the breaks along the Missouri and in the rolling foothills of Judith Basin County.

Mountain grouse hunting is found in most mountainous country. Most hunters will avail themselves of roads to the higher ridges and then work out likely stream bottoms and ridges.

Specific information on seasons, dates and bag limits may be obtained after August 15 each year by writing the Montana Fish and Game Department at Helena.

## PARTRIDGE

Montana has two species of partridges — the Hungarian and the Chukar. The Hun has been hunted for many years, but it was not until the 1959 Legislative Session that the Chukar was defined as an upland game bird. Hunting is allowed on Chukars, and they are found in limited areas.

The Hun has taken hold best in the plains where there is much open country devoted to wheat farming interspersed with grasslands. They tend to flock together in family groups, or coveys, which lie fairly well to a dog. These birds are wary, scatter widely when flushed and often fly far. Like the ring-necked pheasant, these fellows are masters in the art of skulking and running.

Open seasons each year vary according to current abundance, and bag and possession limits are established by the Montana Fish and Game Commission in August.

Best hunting in normal years may be found in the vast dry-land wheat farming areas such as the Judith Basin, the areas surrounding Great Falls and the highline area composed of counties in the Milk River drainage.

## RING-NECKED PHEASANT

The ring-necked pheasant supplies a lot of hunting, but its abundance has been affected by modern land use methods and other factors. The species was introduced into our state as early as 1895, but it was not until the late 1930s that they came into their own.

In general, the pheasant is found in greatest numbers along the stream bottoms and throughout irrigated valleys and benchlands below a 4,500 foot altitude. Here the combination of long growing seasons, diversified farming, ditch banks, and marshy cattail bottoms provides the essential roosting, hiding and nesting cover as well as an abundant food supply.



The pheasant season generally is open on a state-wide basis during late October and November for about a 30 day period. The better pheasant areas are the lower Flathead Valley between Polson and St. Ignatius; the Sun River Irrigation Project, particularly in the vicinity of Fairfield; the irrigated croplands in the vicinity of Conrad and Valier; the Milk and Musselshell Rivers and in other irrigated valleys in both eastern and western Montana.

Although many a pheasant is bagged without a dog, it is a good idea to use one. The pheasant is unsurpassed in the art of hiding when crippled, and it takes a well-placed shot to put him down for good.

## WILD TURKEYS

In January of 1955, five tom turkeys and thirteen hens received from Wyoming were released in the Longpines area of Carter County, Montana. Through a trapping and transplanting program, a few imported turkeys have been expanded into several turkey flocks and their success has allowed the opening of several areas to hunting. Additional turkey hunting areas are opened as new flocks become established.

Turkeys are hunted each year on a special license. Nonresidents must possess a \$151.00 or \$25.00 game bird license before they are eligible to get a turkey license.

## MIGRATORY WATERFOWL

Hunting of waterfowl is governed by federal regulations and bag and possession limits are set each year by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Since Montana is split between the Pacific and Central flyways, regulations will vary according to area.

Some of the best duck hunting is to be found along the high-line of Montana which is located in the north-central part of the state along the Milk River drainage. Good duck hunting may also be found in the water areas in the mountainous portion of western Montana.

Among the puddle ducks, the hunter will find **mallards** to be the most abundant species in the state. Early in the season **canvasbacks**, **red-heads** and **baldpates** make up the bulk of the diving ducks found in Montana.

**Canada geese** or **honkers** predominate in Montana's wild geese population, and the beautiful **snow goose** is often found in large numbers through central Montana during the fall hunting season. Freezout Lake near Fairfield, Montana, is an exceptionally good area for **snow geese**. The **white fronted goose** can be found in huntable numbers in one area of Montana only. This is the northeast corner of the state near Plentywood.

**Snow goose** hunting has not been allowed in Madison, Jefferson and Beaverhead Counties. This precaution is a protective measure for the **Trumpeter Swan** which in flight is often mistaken for the snow goose. The **Trumpeter**, once near extinction, has made a comeback in the federal refuge at Red Rock Lakes, Montana.





Photo by Robert Cooney

# National Forests

The National Forests are open to hunting and fishing to holders of proper Montana Fish & Game Department licenses. Recreation maps and information about public camp and picnic sites and hunting-fishing areas are available from National Forest headquarters and Forest Service Ranger Stations.

(\*Forest Service Ranger Stations are located in these towns.)

## BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

(2,111,058 acres)

**Headquarters:** Skihi Street & Highway No. 41, Dillon, Montana 59725.

**Special Attractions:** Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness; Tobacco Root, Madison, Gravelly, Snowcrest, and Continental Divide Mountain Ranges; alpine lakes; Madison, Ruby, Beaverhead, and Big Hole Rivers; excellent fishing; hunting includes deer, elk, moose, goat, and antelope.

**Facilities:** Resort hotels, and cabins in and near National Forest. Nearby towns: Dillon\*, Wisdom\*, Jackson, Lima, Ennis\*, Virginia City, Sheridan, Wise River\*.

## BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

(1,115,147 acres in Montana)

**Headquarters:** 316 North Third Street, Hamilton, Montana 59840.

**Special Attractions:** Bitterroot Valley and Bitterroot Mountains; hot springs; mountain lakes; Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness; Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness; excellent lake and stream fishing; hunting for bear, elk, deer, mountain goat, pheasant, and mountain grouse. This National Forest extends into the state of Idaho.

**Facilities:** Hotels, motels, cabins, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Missoula\*, Hamilton\*, Corvallis, Stevensville\*, Darby\*, Sula\*.



### **CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST**

**(1,112,175 acres in Montana)**

**Headquarters:** 2602 1st Avenue N., Billings, Montana 59101.

**Special Attractions:** Magnificent views from Beartooth Highway; snow-capped peaks, high plateaus; Granite Peak (12,799 feet), highest point in Montana; Grasshopper Glacier; lakes, glaciers, ice caverns; 900-foot Woodbine Falls; Beartooth Primitive Area; excellent trout fishing; big-game hunting for elk, moose, deer, mountain sheep, bear.

**Facilities:** Hotels, motels, cabins, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Ashland\*, Red Lodge\*, Absarokee, Laurel, Big Timber, Nye, Billings, Cooke City, Columbus.

### **DEER LODGE NATIONAL FOREST**

**(1,181,295 acres)**

**Headquarters:** Federal Building, P. O. Box 400, Butte, Montana 59701.

**Special Attractions:** Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness; Mount Powell; Tobacco Root Mountains; Flint Creek Range; Echo and Georgetown Lakes; excellent fishing; big-game hunting for elk, deer, mountain goat, bear, and moose.

**Facilities:** Hotels, motels, cabins, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Butte\*, Deer Lodge\*, Boulder\*, Anaconda, Whitehall\*, Philipsburg\*.

### **FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST**

**(2,341,827 acres)**

**Headquarters:** 290 North Main Street, Kalispell, Montana 59901.

**Special Attractions:** Bob Marshall Wilderness (710,000 acres in Flathead National Forest), with massive Chinese Wall natural rock formation; Mission Mountains Primitive Area; Hungry Horse Dam visitor center and reservoir; spectacular mountain valleys, glaciers and glacier lakes; excellent fishing; big-game hunting for deer, elk, black bear, moose, grizzly bear, mountain sheep, and mountain goat.

**Facilities:** Hotels, motels, cabins, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Whitefish, Columbia Falls\*, Coram, Kalispell\*, Hungry Horse\*, Polson, Ronan.

### **GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST**

**(1,699,668 acres)**

**Headquarters:** P. O. Box 130, Federal Building, Bozeman, Montana 59715.

**Special Attractions:** Madison River Canyon Earthquake Area; Gallatin Valley; Crazy Mountains; Spanish Peaks Primitive Area; Absaroka Primitive Area; spectacular waterfalls; excellent fishing; big-game hunting for bear, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, and mountain sheep.

**Facilities:** Hotels, motels, cabins, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Bozeman\*, West Yellowstone\*, Livingston\*, Big Timber\*, Gardiner\*, and Gallatin Gateway\*.

### **HELENA NATIONAL FOREST**

**(969,056 acres)**

**Headquarters:** 616 Helena Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601.

**Special Attractions:** MacDonald Pass over Continental Divide; Big Belt and Elkhorn Mountain Ranges; Gates of the Mountains Wilderness; scenic boat trip on Missouri River through historic "Gates of the Mountains"; figure 8 scenic drive near Helena.

**Facilities:** Hotels, motels, cabins, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Townsend\*, Helena\*, Wolf Creek, Lincoln\*.

### **KANIKSU NATIONAL FOREST**

**(446,966 acres in Montana)**

**Headquarters:** P. O. Box 490, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864.

**Special Attractions:** Cabinet Mountains Wilderness; Noxon Rapids Reservoir; Selkirk Mountains; lake and stream fishing; big-game hunting for black bear, white-tailed and mule deer.

**Facilities:** Hotels, motels, cabins, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Thompson Falls\*, Noxon\*, and Sandpoint, Idaho\*.

**(Note:** Most of the Kaniksu National Forest is in Idaho.)

### **KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST**

**(1,770,989 acres in Montana)**

**Headquarters:** Box AB, 418 Mineral Avenue, Libby, Montana 59923.

**Special Attractions:** Cabinet Mountains Wilderness; Whitefish Range, Yaak River; Kootenai Canyon; Fisher River; good lake and stream fishing; big-game hunting for black bear, white-tailed deer, moose, mule deer, mountain goat, and mountain sheep.

**Facilities:** Hotels, motels, cabins, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Libby\*, Troy\*, and Eureka\*.



## LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

(1,834,652 acres)

**Headquarters:** Box 871, Federal Building, Great Falls, Montana 59401.

**Special Attractions:** Bob Marshall Wilderness; Chinese Wall and Continental Divide; scenic limestone canyons; Little Belt Mountains; good stream and lake fishing; big-game hunting for deer, elk, grizzly bear, mountain sheep, black bear, and mountain goat.

**Facilities:** Hotels, motels, cabins, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Lewistown\*, Great Falls\*, White Sulphur Springs\*, Stanford\*, Augusta\*, Choteau, Niehart\*, and Harlowton\*.

## LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

(2,086,482 acres)

**Headquarters:** 2801 Russell Street, Missoula, Montana 59801.

**Special Attractions:** Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness; Mission, Swan, and Bitterroot Mountain Ranges; Continental Divide; Seeley Lake; Lolo Trail; Lewis & Clark Highway; excellent stream and lake fishing; big-game hunting for elk and deer.

**Facilities:** Hotels, motels, cabins, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Missoula\*, Ovando, Superior\*, Alberton, Drummond, St. Regis, Plains\*, Seeley Lake\*, and Thompson Falls.

# National Forest Wilderness And Primitive Areas

There are parts or all of 11 National Forests in Montana. They cover 17,000,000 acres and include five wilderness and four primitive areas. National Forest lands are open to hunting and fishing, with appropriate Montana licenses.

All Wilderness and Primitive Areas are closed<sup>1</sup> to motorized and mechanized travel. Some of the main access trails leading to these areas are also closed to motor scooters; these trails are posted.

**Bob Marshall Wilderness (950,000 acres)**—The Bob Marshall Wilderness was established by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1940. It represents a consolidation of the Pentagon, South Fork, and Sun River Primitive Areas. Located along the Continental Divide on the Flathead and Lewis & Clark National Forests, it includes the headwaters of the South and Middle Forks of the Flathead River and the Sun River.

Here is summer range for three major elk herds and some of the finest back country fishing in the West. Here, too, is one of the last strongholds of the black spotted native cutthroat trout, unaffected by artificial introductions.

Unbelievable scenic beauty is highlighted by a vast escarpment known as the Chinese Wall, formed by the huge Lewis overthrust. It averages about 1,000 feet in height and extends about 20 miles along the Continental Divide. There are only three passes where saddle stock can travel through the Chinese Wall.

Address inquiries to:

Forest Supervisor  
Flathead National Forest  
290 North Main Street  
Kalispell, Mont. 59901.

Forest Supervisor  
Lewis & Clark National Forest  
Federal Building, Box 871  
Great Falls, Mont. 59801.



**Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness (157,803 acres)**—This is a rugged section of the Continental Divide, along the headwaters of Rock Creek and branches of the Bitterroot and Big Hole Rivers. The Wilderness summers an important elk herd. Mountain goat frequent the alpine peaks. Deep, mountain lakes are famous for fine fishing. The Wilderness extends into three National Forests: Bitterroot, Beaverhead, and Deer Lodge.

Address inquiries to:

Forest Supervisor	Forest Supervisor
Deerlodge National Forest	Bitterroot National Forest
107 East Granite Street	316 North Third Street
Butte, Mont. 59701.	Hamilton, Mont. 59840.
Forest Supervisor	
Beaverhead National Forest	
Skihi Street & Highway No. 41	
Dillon, Mont. 59725.	

**Beartooth Primitive Area (230,000 acres)**—A high, glacier-covered plateau-type range, this Primitive Area contains Granite Peak (12,799 feet), the highest point in Montana, and famous Grasshopper Glacier where hundreds of thousands of grasshoppers are encased in ice. The Primitive Area is on the Gallatin and Custer National Forests.

Located at the headwaters of the Stillwater and Rosebud Rivers and drained to the east by Rock Creek, the area contains a multitude of glacier-formed alpine lakes and offers spectacular fishing. Big game includes mountain goat, elk, moose, deer, mountain sheep, and bear.

Address inquiries to:

Forest Supervisor	Forest Supervisor
Custer National Forest	Gallatin National Forest
2602 1st Ave. N.	Federal Building, P. O. Box 130
Billings, Mont. 59101	Bozeman, Mont. 59715

**Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (251,930 acres in Montana)**—Extending over 1,240,618 acres along the Montana-Idaho line, this is the largest classified Wilderness in the United States. The portion in Montana includes the Bitterroot Mountain Range, with steep-walled canyons and high, rugged peaks. These alpine formations provide some of Montana's finest mountain goat range. Fast, cold, and clear mountain streams offer excellent white-water fishing. Elk from the Selway herd drift in and out of the Montana portion of the Wilderness. The Montana area is on the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests.

Address inquiries to:

Forest Supervisor	Forest Supervisor
Bitterroot National Forest	Lolo National Forest
316 North Third Street	2801 Russell Street
Hamilton, Mont. 59840.	Missoula, Mont. 59801

**Cabinet Mountains Wilderness (94,272 acres)**—A region of high peaks between the Kootenai and Clark Fork Rivers in western Montana, the Wilderness area extends into the Kootenai and Kaniksu National Forests. Glacier-formed lakes provide good fishing. Big game includes deer, grizzly bear, mountain goat, and mountain sheep.



Address inquiries to:

Forest Supervisor  
Kootenai National Forest  
416 Mineral Avenue  
Libby, Mont. 59923

Forest Supervisor  
Kaniksu National Forest  
P. O. Box 490  
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

It is one of the more difficult of the back country regions to traverse. Established trails are few. Thus traveling in its interior represents a real challenge to those who wish to enjoy this truly remote area.

**Mission Mountains Primitive Area (73,340 acres)**—Located on the Flathead National Forest on the east slope of the Mission Mountain Range in the Swan River drainage, this Primitive Area is characterized by glacial and snow fields above timberline. Streams and mountain lakes provide excellent fishing. Mountain goat and grizzly bear like this high country.

Address inquiries to:

Forest Supervisor  
Flathead National Forest  
290 North Main Street  
Kalispell, Mont. 59901

**Spanish Peaks Primitive Area (49,857 acres)**—On the Gallatin-Madison Divide, at the headwaters of Hellroaring, Spanish, and Cascade Creeks, this Primitive Area contains peaks that extend up to 11,000 feet. It is on the Gallatin National Forest. Excellent fishing. Big game includes moose, big horn sheep, and mountain goat.

Address inquiries to:

Forest Supervisor  
Gallatin National Forest  
Federal Building, P. O. Box 130  
Bozeman, Mont. 59715

**Absaroka Primitive Area (64,000 acres)**—Just north of Yellowstone National Park, this Primitive Area is on the Gallatin National Forest. Access is via trails through passes from the headwaters of the Boulder River and Mill Creek and from the Stillwater River, past Lake Abundance. Several lakes and streams provide excellent fishing. Big game include moose, elk, deer, and bear.

Address inquiries to:

Forest Supervisor  
Gallatin National Forest  
Federal Building, P. O. Box 130  
Bozeman, Mont. 59715

**Gates of the Mountains Wilderness (28,562 acres)**—Gates of the Mountains Wilderness on the Helena National Forest was established March 25, 1948, by the Chief of the Forest Service. The area takes its name from the name Lewis & Clark gave to the steep rock walls they found along the Missouri River when they came up the river in 1805. Game includes elk, deer, bear, and mountain goat.

Address inquiries to:

Forest Supervisor  
Helena National Forest  
616 Helena Avenue  
Helena, Mont. 59601



# State Forests



## **CLEARWATER STATE FOREST**

**Accessible via State Highway 200, Route 209.** Headquarters—Missoula.

**Special Attractions:** Clearwater River, nearby lakes, ghost towns and camp grounds, fishing, hunting (bear, deer, elk).

**Facilities:** Several camp sites and picnic areas throughout Seeley Lake recreation area.

## **COAL CREEK STATE FOREST**

**Accessible via U. S. 2 and 93 to Columbia Falls.** Approximately 25 miles north of Columbia Falls. Headquarters—Kalispell.

**Special Attractions:** Glacier National Park, North Fork of Flathead River, freshwater streams. Hunting, fishing; hunting includes elk, deer, bear and moose, west side of Glacier National Park.

**Facilities:** Camp ground and picnic areas. Adjacent towns: Columbia Falls, Whitefish, Kalispell, West Glacier. Numerous dude ranches in the near vicinity.

## **LINCOLN STATE FOREST**

**Accessible on Route 200; State 279.** Headquarters—Missoula.

**Special Attractions:** Lincoln recreation area. Unimproved camp grounds along Big Blackfoot River. Access to primitive area. Cabin camps and dude ranches.

## **STILLWATER STATE FOREST**

**Accessible via U. S. 93.** Headquarters Station 17 miles west of Whitefish near Olney.

**Special Attractions:** Whitefish Lake, Upper Whitefish Lake, Whitefish Divide and Swift Creek, North Fork of Stillwater River, Big Mountain Ski Course at Whitefish. Fishing and big game hunting includes deer, elk, bear (both black and grizzly) and moose.

## **SULA STATE FOREST**

**Accessible via Highway 209.** Headquarters on Goat Creek 14 miles south of Swan Lake.

**Special Attractions Nearby:** Bitterroot River, Bitterroot Valley, Bitterroot Mountains, Big Hole Battlefield.

## **SWAN RIVER STATE FOREST**

**Accessible via Highway 20 to Seeley Lake** turnoff from the south, and **Highway 35** to Bigfork from the north on **State 35.** Station on highway at Goat Creek. Headquarters—Missoula.

**Special Attractions:** Swan Lake, Swan River Mountains, numerous fresh water streams, Swan River, beautiful forests, fishing, hunting; big game hunting includes deer, elk and bear. Scenic drive.

**Facilities:** Three public camp grounds and picnic areas. Nearby towns: Bigfork, Kalispell, several cabin camps at Swan Lake.

## **THOMPSON RIVER STATE FOREST**

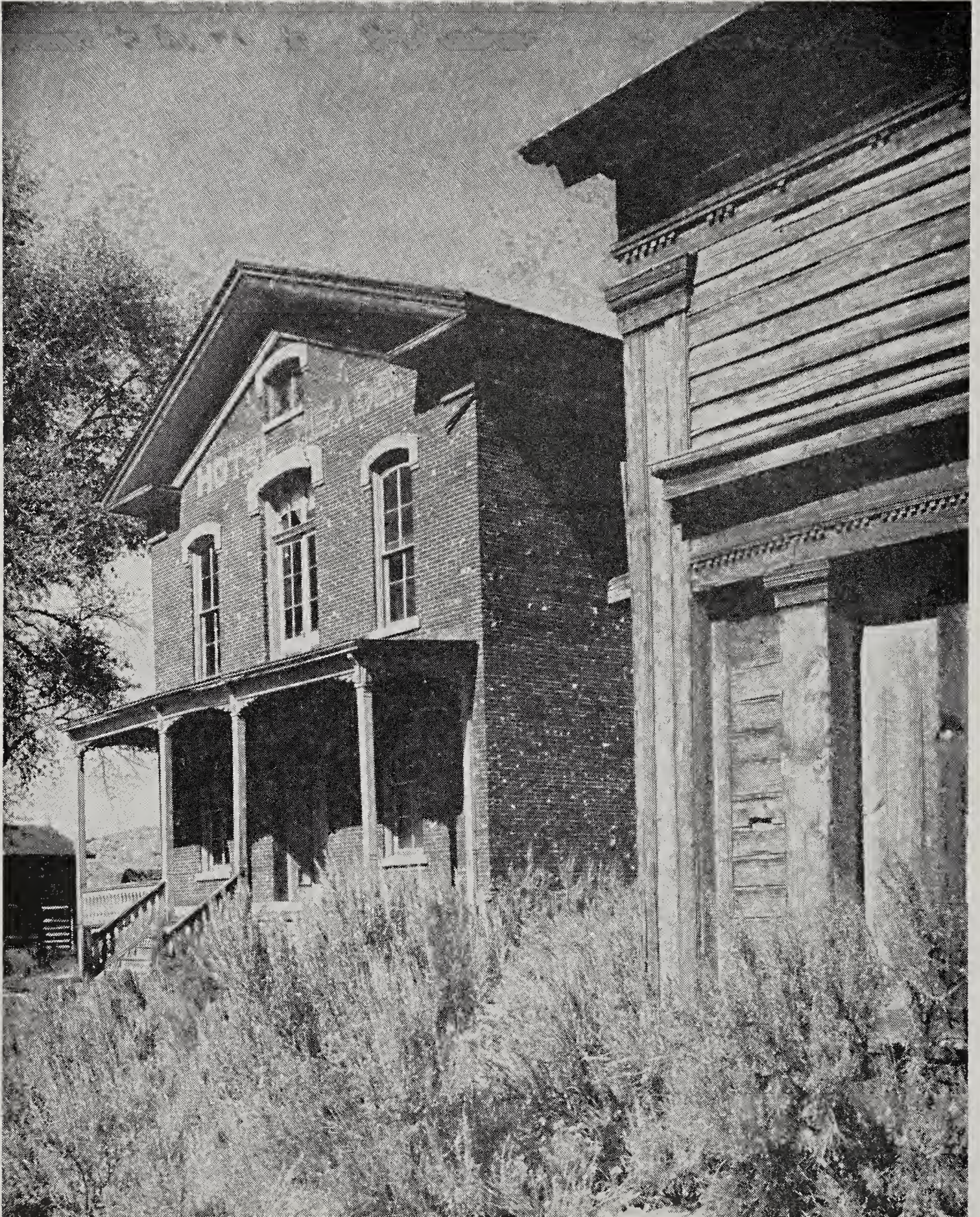
**Accessible from north via U. S. 2, and from south via Highway 200.** Headquarters—Missoula.

**Special Attractions:** Rugged mountains, beautiful forests, Thompson River, fishing; hunting includes deer, elk and bear. Scenic drive.

**Facilities:** Camp grounds, cabin camps and dude ranches nearby. Towns within driving distance: Kalispell, Libby, Thompson Falls, Paradise, Plains.



# State Parks, Monuments and Recreation Areas



Empty windows stare from gaunt buildings into the sage-fringed streets of Montana's first Territorial Capital at Bannack.



## STATE PARKS

Location From Nearest Town	Name	Fee Area	Toilet	Table	Fireplace or Stove	Drinking Water	Boat Launch	Picnicking	Camping	Fishing	Sight-seeing
Anaconda—Off U.S. 10A	Lost Creek State Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Butte—47 mi. east off U.S. 10	Lewis & Clark Caverns St. Park	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Ekalaka—11 mi. north on Montana 7	Medicine Rocks State Park		X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Glendive—South off Interstate 94	Makoshika State Park		X	X	X			X	X		X
Kalispell—Off U.S. 2	Lone Pine State Park		X	X	X			X			X
Kalispell—20 mi. south off Highway 93	West Shore State Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## STATE MONUMENTS

Billings—6 mi. south off Interstate 90	Pictograph Cave State Monument										X	Prehistoric cave dwelling
Bozeman—West of Bozeman, south of Logan off Interstate 90	Madison Buffalo Jump State Monument										X	Hunting technique of prehistoric man
Chinook—16 mi. south off U.S. 2	Chief Joseph Battle Ground of Bear's Paw State Monument										X	Last of great western Indian battles
Dillon—21 mi. west off U.S. 91	Bannack State Monument										X	Early gold town
Pryor—South of Pryor	Chief Plenty Coups State Monument										X	Last chief of Crow Indians
Stevensville—off U.S. 93	Fort Owen State Monument										X	
Three Forks—3 mi. east, 3 mi. north off Interstate 90	Missouri River Headwater State Monument										X	X



STATE RECREATION AREAS

Name	Location From Nearest Town	Fee Area	Toilet	Table	Fireplace or Stove	Drinking Water	Boat Launch	Picnicking	Camping	Fishing	Sight- seeing
Bigfork—1/4 mi. off Montana 35	Wayfarers State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Boyd—9 mi. off U.S. 212	Cooney State Recreation Area	Under Development						X	X	X	
Chester—18 mi. S.W. off U.S. 2	Tiber State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dayton—8 mi. w. off U.S. 93	Lake Mary Ronan State Recreation Area		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dillon—20 mi. south off Interstate 15	Clark Canyon State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ennis—on U.S. 287	Ennis State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Forsyth—Off Interstate 94	Rosebud State Recreation Area		X	X				X		X	
Fort Benton											

**Missouri River Recreational Waterway**—A series of campsites situated at intervals on the Missouri River, commencing at Virgelle and extending downstream to James Kipp and provide rustic camping facilities for modern river travelers on the last major free-flowing stretch of the Missouri.

State Park. These campsites commemorate historic loca-

X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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**Missouri River-Wolf Creek Canyon Recreation Road**—25 miles north of Helena on the frontage road paralleling Interstate 15 in Lewis and Clark and Cascade Counties. A series of small pull-outs and turn-offs along Prickly Pear Creek and the Missouri River. Public use facilities have been constructed for day use and a few overnight accommodations. Interpretive displays constructed at appropriate locations. Picnicking, camping, fishing and boating.



Hamilton—40 mi. south off U.S. 93	Painted Rocks State Recreation Area		X	X	X	X	X	X
Harlowton—20 mi. east off U.S. 12	Deadman's Basin State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X		
Helena—20 mi. east off U.S. 12	Canyon Ferry Recreation Area	X						
Jordan—26 mi. n. off Mont. 20	Hell Creek State Recreation Area		X	X	X	X	X	X
Kalispell—15 mi. w., 13 mi. n. off U.S. 2	Ashley Lake State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kalispell—20 mi. w., 5 mi. n. off U.S. 2	Bitterroot Lake State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kalispell—40 mi. w. on U.S. 93	Logan State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kalispell—2 mi. s. off Montana 35	Woods Bay State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lewistown—65 mi. n. on Montana 19	James Kipp State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lincoln—off Montana 20	Hooper State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Malta—18 mi. N.E. off U.S. 2	Nelson State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Missoula—27 mi. e. on Interstate 90	Beavertail Hill State Recreation Area		To be developed			X	X	X
Polson—15 mi. n. on U.S. 93	Big Arm State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Polson—19 mi. n. on U.S. 93	Elmo State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Polson—8 mi. n., 4 mi. w. off Montana 35	Finley Point State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Polson—20 mi. n. off Montana 35	Yellow Bay State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Thompson Falls	Thompson Falls State Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Whitefish	Whitefish Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**Canyon Ferry State Recreation Area**—A complex of pay and non-pay areas situated on Canyon Ferry Reservoir 20 miles east of Helena off U.S. 12. Picnicking, camping, boating, fishing, sightseeing.



# National Parks

## YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Three of the five entrances to Yellowstone National Park are located in Montana. These are at Cooke City via U. S. Highway 212, at Gardiner, via U. S. Highway 89 and at West Yellowstone via U. S. Highway 191 and 283. Rail, plane and bus connections are met by Park bus service at the nearby cities.

No fishing license is required within the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park during fishing seasons. Fishing regulations for the park area may be picked up at all park entrances and ranger stations.

Among the species of fish found in Yellowstone Park are the rare Montana grayling and cutthroat, rainbow and brown trout or Loch Leven. Yellowstone Lake offers good fishing, and boats and tackle may be rented.

Headquarters of Yellowstone National Park are at Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming. **Inquiries may be addressed to:** Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190.

## GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

All of scenic Glacier National Park is located in Montana and may be reached by motorists by U. S. Highway 2, 89, and 93. Rail, plane, and bus service is also provided.

The regular season for Glacier Park usually opens June 15. Hotels and cabin camps are open until about September 10. Roads along the boundary are usually open about May 15 and the Going-to-the-Sun Road is usually open June 15. The road across Logan Pass is usually clear until October 15, weather permitting. However, after September 10 it is advisable to inquire locally about road conditions.

No fishing license is required inside the park boundaries. The lakes and streams of the park support populations of cutthroat, eastern brook, rainbow, and Dolly Varden or bull trout. Anyone interested in fishing should obtain a copy of the park's fishing regulations at a park entrance or ranger station. Fishermen are asked to report their catches on a creel census form.

Headquarters of the park are at West Glacier. **Inquiries should be addressed to:** Superintendent, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana 59936.

For information concerning rates or accommodations, write to: Glacier Park Incorporated, East Glacier Park, Montana 59434 (between May 20 and September 10) or Glacier Park Incorporated, P. O. Box 4340, Tucson, Arizona 85719.

## FLYING IN

Montana is unsurpassed for hunting and fishing possibilities. There is hardly an airport that is not located near hunting and/or fishing. The following list of "sportsmens'" airports has been selected on the following basis: They are located within ten miles of outstanding fishing streams—what we call blue or red ribbon streams; adjacent to a lake or reservoir



having "bragging type" fishing; within 20 miles of good hunting for either birds or big game; or are on a recreational waterway.

Persons traveling by the large twin engine, turbo prop or jet aircraft, preferring FAA tower controlled facilities, will find the four tower controlled airports at Billings, Great Falls, Helena and Missoula conveniently located near hunting and/or fishing areas.

**AFTER CHOOSING YOUR AREA**

CONTACT: THE MONTANA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION, P. O. BOX 1698, HELENA, MONTANA 59601, for Airport Directory, Aeronautical Chart and facility information.

NOTE: Obtain complete particulars when selecting a mountain recreational airstrip from a nearby flight operations.

**CODE:**

F—Fish            G—Big Game            B—Upland Game Birds            WF—Waterfowl  
R/WW—Recreational Waterway  
\*—Mountain recreational airstrip. No accommodations or aircraft facilities.  
(P)—Private            (USFS)—U. S. Forest Service

Anaconda .....	F-G	Lavina .....	G-B
Ashland (P) .....	G-B	Lewistown .....	F-G-B-WF
Augusta .....	F-G-B-WF	Libby (USFS) .....	F-G-B-WF
Babb .....	F on reservation *	Lincoln .....	F-G
Baker .....	G-B	Livingston .....	F-G-R/WW
Benchmark (USFS) .....	F-G *	Malta .....	G-B-WF
Big Timber .....	F-G-WF-R/WW	Meadow Creek (USFS) .....	F-G *
Bozeman .....	F-G-WF	Medicine Lake .....	B-WF
Broadus .....	G-B	Miles City .....	G-B
Browning .....	F	Philipsburg .....	F-G-B
Chester .....	F-B-WF	Polebridge .....	F-G *
Choteau .....	F-G-B-WF	Polson .....	F-B-WF
Circle .....	G-B	Red Lodge .....	F-G
Clinton (Rock Creek) .....	F-G	Richey .....	G-B
Columbus .....	F-G-WF-R/WW	Ronan .....	F-B-WF
Condon (USFS) .....	F-G *	Roundup .....	G-B
Conrad .....	B	Ryegate .....	G-B-WF
Deer Lodge .....	F-G	St. Ignatius .....	F-B
Dell .....	F-G-B	Schafer (USFS) .....	F-G *
Dillon .....	F-G-B	Seeley Lake .....	F-G *
Drummond .....	F-G	Sidney .....	G-B
Ekalaka .....	G-B	Spotted Bear (USFS) .....	F-G *
Ennis (P) .....	F-G-B	Stanford .....	G-B
Eureka .....	F-G	Stevensville .....	G-WF
Fairfield .....	B-WF	Superior .....	F-G-B
Forsyth .....	G-B-WF	Terry .....	G-B
Fort Benton .....	B-WF-R/WW	Thompson Falls .....	F-G-B
Fortine (P) .....	F-G	Three Forks .....	F-G-WF
Gardiner .....	F-G	Tiber Dam .....	F-WF *
Glasgow .....	F-G-B-WF	Townsend (Canyon Ferry) .....	F-G-WF *
Glendive .....	G-B-WF	Townsend .....	F-G-WF
Hamilton .....	F-G	Troy (USFS) .....	F-G
Hardin (Fairgrounds Air Park) .....	G-B	Twin Bridges .....	F-G-B
Harlowton .....	G-B	Valier .....	F-G-WF
Havre .....	G-B	West Yellowstone .....	F-G
Hot Springs .....	G	Whitefish .....	F-G
Jackson .....	F-G	White Sulphur Springs .....	F-G-B
Jordan .....	G-B	Wilsall .....	F-G-B *
Kalispell (City Field) .....	F-G-B-WF	Winifred .....	G-B
Kalispell (Flathead County) .....	F-G-B-WF	Wisdom .....	F-G *
Laurel .....	G-R/WW	Wolf Creek (Ox Bow) .....	F-G *



